

# Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club

## 2023 CLUB OFFICERS

Pres: Aaron Baker - KI5FIQ

Vice Pres: Mark Phillips - KI5POH

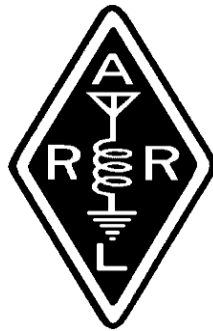
Sec/Treas: Army Curtis - AE5P

Visit our web site at

<https://w5nac.com/>

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club is to support and promote Amateur Radio by public service, offering training to unlicensed interested parties and licensed Amateurs, mutual support of other Amateurs, engaging events that promote Amateur radio to the general public and other Amateur radio operators, and continuing fellowship by regularly scheduled organized meetings and events and having fun.



## JANUARY MINUTES

The January business meeting of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club (NARC) was held on December 28, 2022, on the club's 146.84 repeater. The three club officers checked in, as well as seven club members.

### New Business:

The ARRL January VHF Contest is scheduled for the weekend of January 21-22, 2023. Tentative club members participating in this event as rovers include AE5P, N6RH, KT5 TE, KI5PIQ, KI5PYQ, and KI5RAT. KI5MHB will be one of the operators at K5QE.

The ARRL Liability Insurance for the club has been renewed by the Secretary/Treasurer.

Net was closed by President KI5FIQ at 8:11p.m. Total of 10 members checked in.

The regular January meeting of the Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club was held as scheduled on January 4 at the City/County EOC. President Aaron KI5FIQ opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with 21 members and guests. Introductions were made by all present. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published. Treasurer's report was read.

Dave KI5RAT reported he would not be able to participate in the VHF

contest. That will still leave us with five rovers.

The idea of a club foxhunt was again raised. Roger KOYY will work on it.

Meeting closed at 7:08

Program: Mike Miles WD5EFY presented an excellent program on the new RACES organization in Texas.

Meeting was closed at 8:15 p.m.

## 2023 DUES ARE DUE

Dues are just \$20 a year and cover all licensed hams in a family. Please get your dues to AE5P. Sooner is better than later. Make checks payable to NARC.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

The first month of 2023 has come and gone and has been quite eventful. Living with a cast on your main hand has been quite interesting and I'm happy that it's gone now. VHF contesting this past weekend wasn't without its flukes either as we dusted the cobwebs off of our equipment. Thought I could get by and Rove with FT8 with one radio and use the FM voice with our pack on another. The first radio, the wire came out of the butt connector and no matter what I did with pliers just couldn't get it to stick so that was scrapped, and then once the contest started, discovered that the other 6m radio I was using doesn't transmit any audio (thankfully Army had some quick thinking and used clever CW for my contacts on Saturday). Regardless of all the bad things that happened, I still enjoyed.

10 meters has also been going great as well. This week I've been working from home for a 3 day training for our AV equipment and have been sneaking in contacts during our breaks on both FT8 and SSB. Anyway hope to see everyone at the meeting next week and hope you have a good month.

73, Aaron KI5FIQ

Baker.barisax@gmail.com

## FROM THE VP CHAIR

I hope everyone is having a great new year. As we start 2023, I want to thank those of you who have given me some great ideas about programs for our monthly meetings. I hope we can have interesting programs for both old and new hams. I look forward to Tim Leonard's program for our February meeting. If you have any suggestions, please let me know. I wish you all a continued Happy and Prosperous New Year!

73, Mark KI5POH

[KI5POH21@gmail.com](mailto:KI5POH21@gmail.com)

## NOTES FROM OUR EC

Hey ya'!!! It's cold and gray and we've recorded 3.0 inches at the mill. I'm sure either during the business meeting or the Thursday SKYWARN net there will be many more reports from around the area.

Army gave a great list of ARES resources in his 18 Jan email. As you have noticed all of the links can be downloaded, if you are so inclined.

There are some training items from FEMA which will help you with the Incident Command System (ICS). Many of you were at the RACES discussion at our January program meeting presented by Mike Miles. Some you noted the command center and Mike pointed out some of the various functions in the room. The ICS study will help you with that.

All of the items are self-study through FEMA and you will need to enroll with FEMA. The link will be at

the end of this article.

Recommend classes are:

IS-100 Intro to Incident Command System.

IS-200 ICS for Single Resource.

IS-700 Introduction to National Incident Mgt. System.

IS-800 National Response Framework.

Many of you have and are using WINLINK. The folks at WINLINK are pretty good at keeping it updated. They have a section with templates for ICS forms. Give those forms a look. Some of them we may have to generate (radio net and resources) others we may just have to handle.

It's been a long time since we have had to operate in a very formal environment, so getting up to speed will help.

Thanks to everyone who have been participating in our nets.

73 and see you on the nets  
de John Chapman KC5MIB  
[kc5mib@arrl.net](mailto:kc5mib@arrl.net)

Start here:

<https://training.fema.gov/is/>

## VE TESTING

We had no applicants for the January VE test session.

Many thanks to VE's, Mike AA5HH, Ralph N6RH, Robert KD5FEE, Rusty KD5GEN and Army AE5P.

Remember that we give in-person VE tests the third Wednesday of **EVERY** month. For the latest information always check the club website at:

<https://w5nac.com/ve-testing/>

73 de AE5P.

email: [ae5p@arrl.net](mailto:ae5p@arrl.net)

## TWO METER CLUB NETS

Please join us each week for the two-meter nets sponsored by NARC. All stations are welcome to check into the nets.

Each **MONDAY** is the **NARC ARES/RACES** net, at 8:00 p.m. on the club's 146.84 repeater (PL 141.3).

Second, on **THURSDAY** evenings at 8:00 p.m. is the **Deep East Texas Skywarn Emergency Weather Net** on the 147.32 repeater (PL 141.3).

Please join us for one or both.

## HAMLIST

Are you on Hamlist? Check it out and join at:

<https://w5nac.com/about/email-reflectors/>

## NEXT MEETING

Remember that our meetings are now in two

separate sections. The monthly business meeting will be held on the Club's 146.84 repeater, 8:00 p.m. on the Wednesday before our normal scheduled meeting the first Wednesday of the month. For the regular February meeting, the business meeting will be held January 25 on the 84 repeater. Everyone is welcome to listen to the meeting, however you must be a current dues paying member of the club to participate.

The next regular NARC meeting will be Wednesday February 1st at the Nacogdoches City/County EOC. Meeting begins at 7:00; doors open at 6:30. Come early for socializing before the meeting. After a very short business meeting, we will have what promises to be a most interesting program by Tim Leonard KE5PQJ on receiving and decoding ADSB transmissions from nearby aircraft.

Hope to see ya'll there.

## UPCOMING EVENTS OF NOTE

Mark your calendars for the following events coming up in the next few months. Full information on these events and much more can be found at <https://www.contestcalendar.com//contestcal.html>

### Shuttle Columbia Special Event Station K5C

Feb. 3-5, 2023  
[w5nac.com](http://w5nac.com)

### CQ WPX RTTY

Feb. 11-12, 2023  
<http://www.cqwxrtty.com/rules.htm>

### ARRL International DX Contest CW

Feb. 18-19, 2023  
<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

### NAQP RTTY

Feb. 25-26, 2023  
<http://www.ncjweb.com/NAQP-Rules.pdf>

### ARRL International DX Contest SSB

March 4-5, 2023  
<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

### North American Sprint - RTTY

March 12, 2023  
<http://ncjweb.com/Sprint-Rules.pdf>

### BARTG HF RTTY

March 18-20, 2023  
<http://www.bartg.org.uk/>

### CQ WPX SSB

March 25-26, 2023  
<http://www.cqwp.com/rules.htm>

### San Jacinto Day Special Event Station K5T

April 27-30, 2023  
[w5nac.com](http://w5nac.com)

### 7th Call Area QSO Party

May 6-7, 2023  
<http://7qp.org>

### New England QSO Party

May 6-7, 2023  
<https://neqp.org/rules/>

### Volta WW RTTY

May 13-14, 2023  
<http://www.contestvolta.com/rules.pdf>

### CQ WW WPX CW

May 27-28, 2023  
<http://www.cqwp.com/rules.htm>

### ARRL International Digital Contest (No RTTY)

June 3-4, 2023  
<https://contests.arrl.org/dig/>

### ARRL June VHF Contest

June 10-12, 2023  
<http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf>

### ARRL Field Day

June 24-25, 2023  
<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

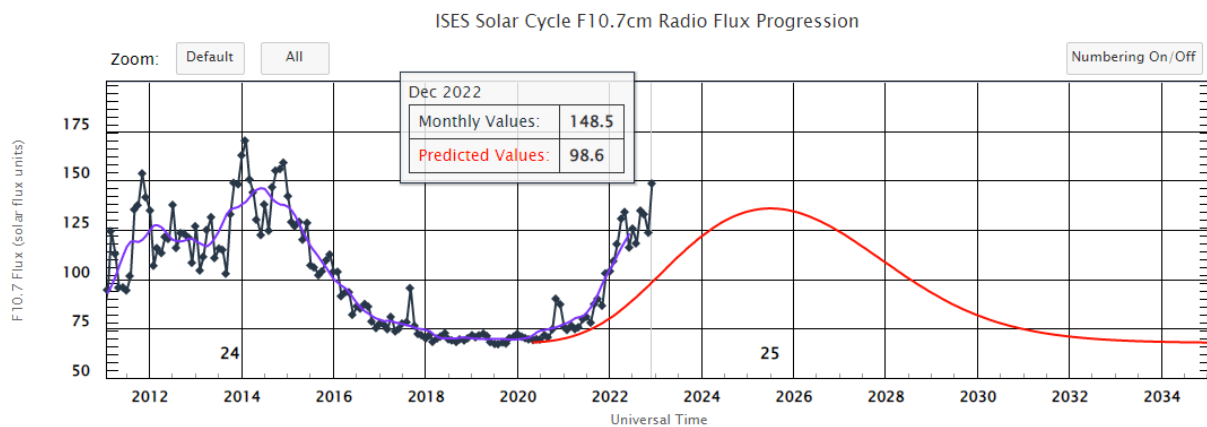
Check out the many contests listed on the Contest Calendar link shown here. There are many State QSO parties and 'Parks-On-The-Air' events that may be just right for you. Check 'em out.

## Chasing DX

Jim Edmondson, N5JGE

As we moved further into Cycle 25 with improving propagation, I have become more interested in chasing DX. The following is a short article to give you some tips and resources if you want to try your hand at it.

The graph below shows that the December 2022 monthly average solar flux value exceeded the predicted value by over 50%. Actual flux has exceeded predicted flux for all of 2022. At this point, it looks like the predictions that Cycle 25 would be a



Note: Screen capture from <https://www.swpc.noaa.gov/products/solar-cycle-progression> (1/24/23)

weak cycle similar to Cycle 24 were too pessimistic.

Improving propagation and the use of CW or weak signal modulation modes make the chances of capturing those rare DX stations much higher - provided you can get through the pileups. To help with pileups, some recent DX stations are using MSHV for FT8 operation. That software allows the DX station to transmit and respond to multiple FT8 streams simultaneously, improving QSO rate and your chances of getting through. Even "100 watt and a wire" operators should have a good shot at rare DX for the next few years especially using these modes!

The first requirement for chasing DX is to know the frequency, time and how to listen. The how includes mode and if the operator is using different receive and transmit frequencies or "split operation". Of course, you can randomly tune around the ham bands and get lucky, but more likely you will get frustrated and give up. Getting some help on this aspect will go a long way. There are several websites which

track DX-peditions and report on their progress from home country to the DX location such as [DX News.com](#), [DX WORLD](#) and [Announced DX Operations](#). The larger, well-funded DX-peditions are likely to have their own websites with the most up to date information.

Some DX-expeditions are quite arduous involving long ocean voyages with literally tons of radio equipment and supplies to support multi-week encampments in desolate locations without re-supply. The currently enroute Bouvet Island DX-pedition is one example of this type. Radio operations are likely to begin around January 27, 2023. Bouvet Island is the second most sought after DXCC entity after North Korea. The last time Bouvet was put on the air was February 2008 and the anticipation of making a QSO with the current team is extremely high.

The funding goal for this project (see [3Y0J Funding](#)) is \$715,000! That goal was reached due to the generosity of the Bouvet team (each of the 13 members contributed \$20,000 each), individual hams, DX clubs (the Northern CA DX club contributed \$100,000) and corporate sponsors. Many DX-peditions will also charge for printed QSL cards and LOTW confirmations usually via ClubLog OQRS, but this is mainly to defray QSL costs. The entire Bouvet Island DX-pedition website ([3Y0J](#)) is packed with interesting information and worth a read. There is also a short article on the 3Y0J DX-pedition in the February 2023 issue of QST (pp.78-79).

As you might imagine, the exact operating schedules can change due to unforeseen travel delays, weather conditions, etc. Updated operating schedules can be found on the DX-pedition websites. But one site that I like is the DX calendar ([DX News.com Calendar](#)). This shows a month-by-month view of when various DX stations will be operating with links for more details on each.

These resources are very helpful, but how do you know when propagation is good enough for you to have a chance at a QSO? Join the TX DX Society email list ([TDXS E-mail List Reflector](#)). It is free and many local members report when they are receiving DX stations. You will want to subscribe to receive each individual posting so that you get DX alerts in a timely manner. You will receive emails that you are not interested in, but they can be easily deleted after scanning the subject line. I was alerted by TX DX Society emails to FT8WW (Crozet Island) being received in South TX multiple times this month. I was able to receive FT8WW but could not get through the pileups. However, I was able to make a QSO with ET3AA (Ethiopia) after seeing reports by TX DX Society members.

The TX DX Society also operates a DX cluster which you can add to your favorite DX spotting or logging software (dxc.tdxs.net port 7373). However, these spots will not only be from local hams, so it is somewhat less useful. While non-members can use the email list and DX cluster, you might want to support this group by joining. For those who live more than 75 miles from downtown Houston (EL29hs) annual membership is only \$12.50.

Obviously, my recent activities barely scratch the surface of chasing DX. Hopefully, it will encourage you to look further into this fascinating topic and join the chase.